



BY H. T. WHITE.

RUTLAND, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1844,

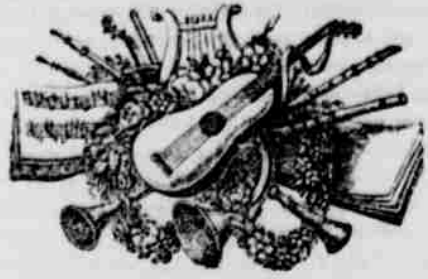
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THE SEWING CIRCLE.

"I cannot stop to alter words once written."

Reader, did you ever go
Where the ladies meet to sew,
Needle, thimble, thread in hand,
Old and young, a happy band?
Take a seat and hear the chat,
Now of this and then of that,
Shoes and sofas, songs or bread,
Books or dresses, lace or thread,
Mesmerism, practiced daily,
Dickens' last, and Charles O'Malley,
The last wedding, and the bride,
And a little world beside;
Works of genius, gems of art,
Every thing must have a part!
Then just see the fingers fly,
'Mong those threads of every dye;
Here a fadeless flower is blooming,
There a bud no worm's consuming!
Pray sir, would you like to buy?
Here's a purse you'd better try,
Filled with Benton mint-drops fair,
It will make your music rare!
Or, perhaps you'd like this guard,
Fairy fingers labored hard,
Knot by knot the silks to tie,
Come sir you had better buy.
Hark! the door-bell, who is there?
'Ladies, —, Esquire,
Then's renewed the merry hum,
Gaily welcomed as they come,
Father, brother, friends and lover,
Dick, the statesman, Will, the rover,
Help to swell the careless ring,
Laugh or chat, or sigh or sing.
Time hath wings, the sages say,
Sure to-night he would not stay,
Soon, full soon the hours come round,
And we are all homeward bound,
Here's a meale,—great and small,
Thronging through the entrance hall,
But the night is dark at best,
So, kind reader—guess the rest.

The Orphan Boy.

The death of Senator Porter, which we announced a few days ago, was communicated to the Congress of the United States on Friday, when Mr. Slidell, of Louisiana made the annexed remark, which will be read with interest. Senator Porter was a distinguished representative of the self made men of our country, and his history is a striking illustration of what an orphan boy can accomplish by industry, perseverance, temperance and upright deportment. Mr. Slidell said:—

The message which we have just received, communicating the intelligence of the death of a Senator of Louisiana, devolves upon me, as one of the representatives of that State, in conformity with an established and salutary usage, the duty of making some brief observations on the character and history of the deceased. It would, perhaps, be sufficient to say that Alexander Porter had twice been chosen to discharge the august functions of representing the sovereignty of one of the States of this great confederacy. Constituted as the Senate of the United States has heretofore always been (and I trust ever will be) of the men most distinguished throughout the Union for intelligence, virtue and patriotism, this fact alone affords the most emphatic eulogium. But in that body, among the very elite of the nation—the intellectual giants of the land—Alexander Porter occupied a conspicuous place. He offered a striking illustration of the happy working of our free institutions for he had attained this proud eminence unaided by any adventitious advantages of fortune, connection or education. He was the son of an Irish clergyman, who died upon the scaffold, a martyr in the cause of liberty, in that memorable struggle which, ending unsuccessfully, has been stigmatized as a rebellion; but which had it resulted differently, would have been recognized as a glorious revolution—for all revolutions are but fortunate rebellions.

The orphan child was brought to the United States by an uncle, at a very tender age. He received in Tennessee such an education as could then be obtained at a common country school; and attending during the day to the business of a village shop, he acquired at night, in the hours devoted by others to amusement or to sleep, such simple rudiments of law as he could glean from a few elementary books loaned to him by those who felt an interest in the young student. With this scanty outfit of learning, he, soon after arriving at manhood, about the year 1809, emigrated to Louisiana, and established himself in the practice of law, in the western part of the State. The best

evidence of the rapidity with which he was established in popular favor and consideration in a land of strangers, was his election in 1811, as a member of the convention for framing the constitution of the State. He soon attained distinction in his profession; and after some years of arduous and well recompensed devotion to it practice, he accepted a seat on the bench of the Supreme court of Louisiana, the reported decisions of which, during his fifteen years' service, attest the industry and ability which he brought to the discharge of his judicial duties—duties requiring, from the peculiar character of our jurisprudence, a greater range of legal studies than in any of our sister States. He was intimately acquainted with the Roman, French, and Spanish law, and recurred with familiarity to the original sources of information in those languages. He resigned his Judgeship about the year 1830, and was soon after elected to the Senate of the United States. His career while there is familiar to all who hear me.

His health became so feeble as to induce him for several years to withdraw from public life; but he was again elected to the National Senate at the last session of the legislature of Louisiana. The disease which had long been preying upon his body, without impairing the energy of the mind, assuming greater intensity, he was unable to take his seat; and he died on the 13th ult., at his plantation, after a protracted illness. Alexander Porter was a learned lawyer, an eloquent advocate, and an upright Judge. His extensive and varied reading, his great colloquial powers, ready wit, and social disposition, fitted him to appear to advantage in the most brilliant and refined society. His temperament was ardent, and he was zealous in his political creed; but he did not permit political differences to affect his relations in private life. Widely differing from him on all great party questions, I have many years honored by his intimacy; and knowing him as I did, I can with confidence assert, and that the manifestations of respect which I am now about to propose, could not be bestowed more fitly.

When his death was announced in the Senate. The Hon. Thomas H. Benton, Senator from Missouri, made a feeling address, from which we quote the following:

Honors to the illustrious dead go beyond the discharge of a debt of justice to them; and the rendition of consolation to their friends; they become lessons and examples for the living. The story of their humble beginning, and the noble conclusion is an example to be followed, an incitement to be felt. And where shall we find an example more worthy of imitation, or more full encouragement, than in the life and character of Alexander Porter?—a lad of tender age—an orphan with a widowed mother and younger children—the father martyred in the cause of freedom—an exile before he was ten years old—an ocean to be crossed, and a strange land to be seen, and a wilderness of a thousand miles to be penetrated before he could find a resting place for the sole of his foot; then education to be acquired, support to be earned, and even citizenship to be gained, before he made his own talent available to his support; conquering all these difficulties by his own exertions, and the aid of an affectionate uncle—(I will name him, for the benefactor of youth deserves to be named, and named with honor in the highest places)—with no other aid than that of an uncle's kindness, Mr. Alexander Porter, Sen., merchant at Nashville, also an emigrant from Ireland, and full of the generous qualities which belong to the children of that soil; this lad an exile and an orphan from the Old World, thus starting in the New World, with everything to gain before it could be enjoyed, soon attained every earthly object, either brilliant or substantial, for which we live and struggle in this life.

A SLAVE'S STORY.

BY MILTON CLARK.

According to his statement his father was a revolutionary patriot, and fought at Bunker Hill. After the war he emigrated South, became an overseer & finally married a slave who was daughter of the owner of the plantation. The mother being a slave made the children slaves, but their owner and grandfather, in his will made them free. His children, however, burnt the will, and distributed the young Clarks among themselves. Milton fell to a humane half sister, who was opposed to the destruction of his grandfather's will; and who was for treating the Clark family as relations, and not as slaves. But she died and then fell into the hands of a monster, who flogged him nearly to death at the tender age of ten years. He received over 300 lashes, and was unable to walk for several days, and unable to walk for several weeks. He determined to drink the blood of his oppressor, rather than endure such another brutal beating. Subsequently he fell to the lot of a Presbyterian deacon, who though very penurious, treated him somewhat better. After he arrived at manhood, one of the Johnson family became his surety in the sum of \$1200, and he was permitted by paying his master \$200 per year, to go and work, where he pleased. With this permit he went to New Orleans, and returned; and paid his master the \$200. Previously to this, however, one of his sisters, a white and beautiful girl of some 17 years of age, had been sent to New Orleans, and sold for \$1600. She fell into good hands, and became the wife of her master, who died a few years after, leaving her worth \$30,000. Before her death, she sent Milton \$800 to purchase his freedom, and the money was given to a brother who purchased his freedom with it, and is now a free man in Petersburg, Va. After his sister's death, in order to settle her estate, Milton's master gave him a permit to

travel and transact business where he pleased. with his permit, which he produced, and read, he went to New Orleans to get the money left by his sister. But the question of heirship becoming entangled in the law, remains in dispute, up to this time. However, the permit being pretty general and broad, he is still travelling with it if not by its authority.

He has been in Oberlin, engaged in painting, learning to read, and aiding fugitive slaves to escape to Canada, lecturing &c. He was opposed to the United States Bank because by its expanding the currency, it increased the price of slaves, which made their masters watch them more narrowly. It had been mortgaged to the Bank for \$10,000 who had escaped into Canada. Here was ten thousand dollars of the Bank's funds, about which there had been so much speculation, walking about in Canada.

Milton went for the constitution if the constitution was opposed to slavery otherwise not. He gave a curious piece of history in regard to the organization of the slaves for purpose of communication. This organization existed throughout the slave States. Their Mail runs out in the night. Information of passing events was obtained by listening to the conversation of their masters and by hearing newspapers read, which was repeated and commented upon, and compared with like information received through other channels. He stated that the negroes were well aware of the state of things pending the settlement of the Boundary question, and expected war, in which case they would have revolted in eight States—So confident were they of war, that they would have risen, had not certain abolitionists in Ill and Ohio, and in the slave States themselves, with whom they took counsel, earnestly remonstrated against it, as both injudicious and wrong.

From Prescott's Conquest in Mexico.

Montezuma's way of Life.

The domestic establishment of Montezuma was on the same scale of barbaric splendor as everything else about him. He could boast of as many wives as are found in the harem of an Eastern Sultan. They were lodged in their own apartments, and provided with every accommodation, according to their ideas, for personal comfort and cleanliness. They passed their hours in the usual feminine employments of weaving and embroidery, especially in the graceful feather work, for which such rich materials were furnished by the royal aviaries. They conducted themselves with strict decorum, under the supervision of certain females, who acted in the respectable capacity of duennas, in the same manner as the religious houses attached to the *teocallis*, the palace was supplied with numerous baths, and Montezuma set example in his own person, of frequent ablutions. He bathed at least once, and changed his dress four times, it is said every day. He never put on the same apparel the second time, but gave it away to his attendants. Queen Elisabeth, with a similar taste for costume, showed a less princely spirit in hoarding her discarded suits. Her wardrobe was probably somewhat more costly than that of the Indian emperor.

Besides his numerous female retainers, the halls and antechambers were filled with nobles in constant attendance on his person, who also served as a body guard. It had been usual for plebeians of merit to fill certain offices in the palace. But the haughty Montezuma refused to be waited on by any but men of noble birth. They were not unfrequently the sons of great chiefs, and remained as hostages in the absence of their fathers; thus serving the double purpose of security and state.

His meals the emperor took alone. The well matted floor of a large saloon was covered with hundreds of dishes. Sometimes Montezuma himself, but more frequently, his steward, indicated those he preferred, and which were kept hot by means of chafing dishes. The royal bill of fare comprehended, besides domestic animals, game from the distant forests, and fish, which the day before, were swimming in the Gulf of Mexico! They were dressed in manifold ways, for the Aztec artists, as we have already had occasion to notice, had penetrated deep into the culinary science.

The meats were served by the attendant nobles who then resigned the office of waiting on the monarch to insidens selected for their personal grace and beauty. A screen of rich gilt and carved wood was drawn around him so as to conceal him from vulgar eyes during the repast. He was seated on a cushion, and the dinner was served on a low table covered with delicate cotton cloth. The dishes were of the finest ware of Cholula. He had a service of gold, which was reserved for religious celebrations. Indeed, it would scarcely have comported with even his princely revenues to have used it on ordinary occasions, when his table equipage was not allowed to appear a second time, but given away to his attendants. The saloon was lighted by torches made of resinous wood, which sent forth a sweet odor, and probably not a little smoke, as they burned. At this meal he was attended by five or six of his aged counsellors, who stood at a respectful distance, answering his questions, and occasionally rejoiced by some of the viands with which he complimented them at his table.

This course of solid dishes was succeeded by another of sweets and pastry, for which the Aztec cooks, provided with the important requisites, of maize-flour, eggs, and the rich sugar of the

aloe, were famous. Two girls were occupied at the farther end of the apartment, during the dinner, in preparing fine rolls and wafers, with which they garnished the board from time to time. The emperor took no other beverage than the *chocolate*, a potation of chocolate, flavored with vanilla and other spices, and so prepared as to be reduced to a froth of the consistency of honey, which gradually dissolved in the mouth. This beverage, if so it be called, was served in golden goblets with spoons of the same metal, or of tortoise-shell finely wrought. The emperor was exceedingly fond of it, to judge from the quantity—no less than fifty jars or pitchers being prepared for his own daily consumption!! Two thousand more were allowed for that of his household.

The general arrangements of the meal seem to have been not very unlike that of Europeans. But no prince in Europe could boast a dessert that could compare with that of the Aztec emperor. For it was gathered fresh from the most opposite climes, and his board displayed the products of his own temperate regions, and the luscious fruits of the tropics, plucked the day previous, from the green groves of the *tierra caliente*, and transmitted with the speed of steam, by means of couriers, to the capital. It was as if some kind fairy should crown our banquets with the spicy products that but yesterday were growing in a sunny isle of the far-off Indian seas!

After the royal appetite was appeased, water was handed him by the female attendants in a silver basin, in the same manner as had been done before commencing his meal; for the Aztecs were as constant in their ablutions, at these times, as any nation of the East. Pipes were then brought, made of a varnished and richly gilt wood, from which he inhaled, sometimes through the nose, at others through the mouth, the fumes of an intoxicating weed, called *tobacco*, mingled with liquid amber. While this soothing process of fumigation was going on, the emperor enjoyed the exhibition of his mountebanks and jugglers, of whom a regular corps was attached to the palace. No people, not even those of China or Hindostan, surpassed the Aztecs in feats of agility and ledge-de-mani.

Sometimes he amused himself with his jester, for the Indian monarch had jests as well as his more refined brethren of Europe, at that day. Indeed, he used to say, that more instruction was to be derived from them than from wiser men, for they dared tell the truth. At other times he witnessed the graceful dances of his women, or took delight in listening to music—if the rude minstrelsy of the Mexicans deserve that name—accompanied by a chant, in slow and solemn cadence, celebrating the heroic deeds of great Aztec warriors, or of his own princely line.

When he had sufficiently revived his spirits with these diversions, he composed himself to sleep, for in his *siesta* he was as regular as a Spaniard. On awaking he gave audience to ambassadors from foreign states, or his own tributary cities, or to such caudillos as had suits to prefer to him. They were introduced by the young nobles in attendance, and, whatever might be their rank, unless of the blood royal, they were obliged to submit to the humiliation of shouldering their rich dresses under the coarse mantle of *nequen*, and cowering barefooted, with downcast eyes, into the presence. The emperor addressed few and brief remarks to the suitors, answering them generally by his secretaries; and the parties retired with the same reverential obeisance, taking care to keep their faces towards the monarch. Well might Cortez exclaim, that no court, whether the Grand Seigneur or any other infidel, ever displayed so pompous and elaborate a ceremonial.

Revolutionary Anecdote.

Just after the battle at Lexington, when the whole country was roused to exertion, and the long subdued fire of patriotism burst into flame, Parson P—, of A—, set out for Cambridge to ascertain how matters went on at the American camp. He found there were more eaters than feeders, more guns than ammunition, and that the patriotism of the clergy had precluded the want of chaplains, so he turned his face towards home again. On his way he met a company from N. Hampshire—stout, hardy woodmen—trudging on with might and main to the scene of danger. At that time, when mails were hardly known and a letter from Boston would have been as strange a visitor in New Hampshire as one would be now coming from Japan, and when, too, every body was 'coming down,' and nobody thought of returning, so long as they could find anything to eat, an opportunity of intelligence 'from below,' was not to be lost; accordingly, the company came to a 'stand-at-ease,' and the parson, after a courteous salute, was inquired of for news. 'I told them,' said he, 'that I had just come from Cambridge, and that they had already more men than they knew what to do with, and no provisions nor powder to spare, so I thought they had better turn right about and go home again; but I never was looked at with so much contempt before; they resumed their march, and I overheard them saying, 'That's an old tory, I know.' My black coat probably saved me from a more striking expression of their displeasure.'

When the parson got home, and told his neighbors that their sons and their brothers and their friends were all out of provisions, then what a stir! some gave one thing, some another; Uncle Jim sent off the whole contents of his meat barrel and meal chest in his own ox-cart, and his family lived on bulled corn and hominy for a week, till the cart came back and he could send to mill again.

The next Sunday, the Parson was to preach at Pembroke, N. H. On Saturday he started off, and when he arrived at P., put up with the deacon a little way from the meeting-house. In the morning he walked to meeting with the deacon, and found most of the elder members of the congregation quietly waiting his arrival at the church door, while the younger ones were engaged in rather more animated conversation at a respectful distance from their seniors. They had heard who was to supply the pulpit of their absent pastor; and as he lived 'farther down' than they did, they were in hopes he might bring some news from that scene to which the eyes of all were so anxiously turned, the camp at Cambridge; but when the deacon told them that the parson had just come from Cambridge itself, their diffidence, and almost their respect, was gone in a moment; old and young thronged about him and joined in one earnest call, 'the news! the news!! the news!!!' The old gentleman, finding there was no getting off, told them if they would go into the house and take their seats, he would tell them from the pulpit all about it. After giving them a relation of all he had seen and knew of the affairs at the camp, the reverend man proceeded, 'And now my brethren, let us commence the worship of the God of Sabbath, and unite in prayer for the success of our righteous cause, and preservation of our patriotic countrymen, who are so fearlessly, and at such great sacrifices, engaged in its defence.'

'Where the spirit of God is, there is Liberty.' Many an ardent prayer went up to Heaven that day, which came not back unheard, unblest or rejected. The venerable preacher used to say, as the big tear trickled down his furrowed cheek, 'It was the most attentive congregation that he ever had in his life.'

THE ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAY.

To describe the Atmospheric Railway in all its detail, would occupy more space than we can devote to the subject, nor would such a description suit the general reader: the following particulars must therefore suffice.

Along the entire line, and between the rails runs a pipe, which, on the Kingstown and Dalkey line, is fifteen inches diameter. Along the entire length of this pipe is a slit or opening, through which a bar passes, connecting a piston) which moves freely in the pipe) with the carriage outside. The opening at the top of the pipe is covered with a leather strap extending the whole length of the pipe, and two inches broader than the opening. Under and over this leather strap are riveted iron plates, the top ones twelve inches, and half an inch broader than the opening, the bottom ones narrower than the opening in the pipe, but the same length as those at the top. One edge of the leather is screwed firmly down, like a common bucket valve, and forms a hinge on which it moves. The other edge of the valve falls into a groove; this groove or trough is filled with a composition, made of bees-wax and tallow well worked by hand, so as to make it pliable and tough, before spreading it in the groove; this composition being pressed tight against the edge of the leather valve which rests in the groove makes the valve air-tight, or at least sufficiently so for all practical purposes. As the piston is moved along the pipe by the pressure of the atmosphere, that side of the valve resting on the groove is lifted up by an iron roller, fixed on the same bar to which the piston is attached; thus clearing an opening for the bar to pass as it moves along.

The opening thus made allows the air to pass freely behind the piston; the disturbance which takes place in the composition by the lifting of the valve, is again smoothed down and rendered air-tight as at first, by a hot iron running on the top of the composition after the valve is shut down. This has actually been done when the piston was travelling at the rate of seventy miles per hour, and was smoothed down air-tight after it by the iron above mentioned. It is contemplated to place stationary engines along the line, about three miles apart; at each engine or station there is an equilibrium valve fixed in the pipe, so that each three miles or sections of pipe can be either exhausted or filled with air independently of the other sections. The equilibrium valve is made to move freely out of the piston by the carriage while passing it; so that the train passes from one section of pipe to another, without any stoppage. It is evident, that as the tractive force is derived from the pressure of the atmosphere on the piston, the amount of force or pressure will depend upon two causes, i. e. the extent of exhaustion on one side of the piston, and the area of the piston itself. On the Kingstown and Dalkey line, the diameter of the piston is fifteen inches; the usual working exhaustion is from eighteen to twenty inches, which propels six carriages filled with passengers (amounting to about thirty-five tons,) up an incline, averaging 1 in 120, at the rate of forty-five miles per hour.

Having now given such a description of the Atmospheric Railway as will, we hope, render its operation intelligible to those at all conversant with mechanics, we will proceed to point out its principal advantages over other modes of locomotion.

First. Economy in construction. A single line is sufficient for all purposes, which will convey more trains at a given time, than any existing railway with two lines; this immense advantage arises from its velocity, averaging forty-five miles per hour.

Secondly. Economy in working being propelled by stationary engines, taking about one fourth of the fuel of a locomotive to do the same work, and saving the transit of the heavy engines